



COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS FOR THE 1950 PEACH CROP?
2. WHY DID EGG PRODUCTION INCREASE IN MARCH?
3. COMPARE 1950 PASTURE CONDITIONS WITH 1949.
4. HOW MANY EGGS WERE PRODUCED IN N. C. IN 1949?
5. COMPARE THE CURRENT CORN SUPPLY WITH LAST YEAR.
6. ARE SUPPLIES OF OTHER GRAINS LARGER THAN LAST YEAR?
7. DISCUSS FEBRUARY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER.
8. WHY DID GROSS INCOME FROM CHICKENS DROP IN 1949?
9. WHAT IS THE INDICATED 1950 WHEAT PRODUCTION?
10. ARE MARCH BROILER PLACEMENTS HIGHER THAN FEBRUARY PLACEMENTS?

No. 59

RALEIGH, N. C.

APRIL 14, 1950

APRIL 1, 1950 GENERAL FARM REPORT

GENERAL SITUATION FAVORABLE

Following the week of freezing temperatures around March 1, the weather has been relatively mild in this State. Rainfall during March was adequate to relieve dry conditions in eastern areas. As of April 1, moisture conditions were "O. K." generally.

Land preparation is ahead of schedule except in southern Piedmont areas where frequent rains since December have kept farmers out of their fields, especially on bottom lands.

Grain crops were effected to varying degrees by the freezing weather around March 1. Redhart and Hardired wheat varieties suffered rather heavily, especially the acreage seeded early. However, freeze damage was not as extensive throughout the wheat producing counties as last year.

Oats were "burned" by the cold weather, but the crop is expected to "outgrow" most of this damage. Other small grain crops are in generally good condition.

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PEACH PROSPECTS BELOW AVERAGE

The condition of North Carolina's peach crop (total of farm and commercial crops) on April 1 averaged 71 percent of normal 28 points above the April 1 average last year, 1 point above the average for April 1, 1948. However the April 1 condition was 16 points below the average for April 1, 1947 average and 9 points below the 10-year average condition on this date.

This condition does not reflect damage which might have occurred from the low temperatures April 6-8. Information received since April 1 indicate that peach prospects were reduced by freezes of April 6-8. It is too early, however, to accurately evaluate the damage at this time.

Freezing temperatures the nights of April 6-8 also damaged peaches in South Carolina, Virginia and Georgia. Hardest hit was Spartanburg County, South Carolina, where early reports suggest a disaster comparable to 1943 when the crop was a near failure.

April 1 condition in the ten peach states is shown in table on Page 2.

SEASONAL INCREASE IN MILK PRODUCTION BEGINS IN MARCH

True to the normal seasonal pattern for milk production in North Carolina, March production showed a sharp increase over the previous month and marked the point at which the seasonal upturn usually appears.

Production of milk on North Carolina farms during March totaled 132 million pounds. March milk flow was 19 million pounds greater than production for the previous month and 5 million pounds above March production a year ago.

Milk production per cow in herds during March averaged 354 pounds which is 50 pounds above February production but is slightly below the 358 pounds per cow for March a year ago.

The average number of milk cows (includes both "dry" and "milked") on farms in North Carolina during March totaled 373,000 head compared with 371,000 head for the previous month. Most of this increase was due to additions to herds as a result of spring freshening of heifers kept for milk.

BROILER PLACEMENTS CONTINUE HIGH

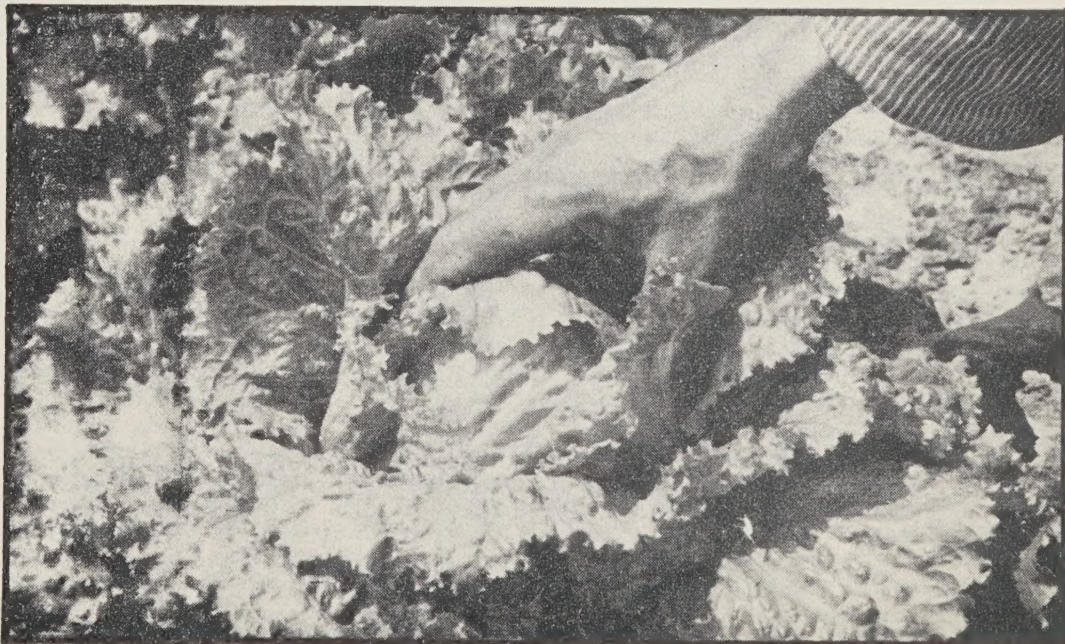
Chick placements in the Chatham-Wilkes commercial broiler areas during March totaled 1,901,000. This was an increase of 15 percent over placements a month earlier but only 3 percent more than the 1,846,000 placed in the two areas during March 1949.

Of the total number, 1,107,000 chicks were placed in the Chatham area and 794,000 in the Wilkes area.

Egg settings in the combined areas increased 9 percent over the number of eggs set during February. The 3,153,000 eggs set during March, 1950 was 4 percent less than settings during March of the previous year.

Hatchings, totalling 2,486,000 chicks, decreased 55,000 from hatchings during March 1949. Of the total 1,598,000 chicks were hatched in the Chatham area and 888,000 in the Wilkes area.

LETTUCE HARVEST WILL START SOON



LARGE SUPPLY OF GRAIN STOCKS ON FARMS

Total grain stocks, including the six major grain crops, on farms in North Carolina as of April 1, 1950 were 36,780,000 bushels. These stocks reflect an increase of 10 percent above total stocks on the same date in 1949, and are a third larger than the 10-year average for April 1.

The sharp increase in grain supplies on farms came primarily as a result of larger stocks of corn. However, oats, barley and soybeans showed an increase over last year. Stocks of wheat and rye were slightly below those of a year earlier, partially offsetting the overall increase of total grain stocks on farms.

Corn stocks on farms as of April 1, in addition to boosting total grain stocks to a very high level, were also the highest of record. In accounting for the record level

of stocks it should be remembered that production of the crop in 1949 was also the highest of record.

In the United States, farm stocks of feed grains are second-largest of record for April 1 in tonnage, also in quantity per annual unit to be fed. The stocks total is dominated by the 1,634 million bushels of corn on farms, which has been exceeded on April 1 only in 1949.

Oats stocks are much smaller than a year ago, but above average. Barley stocks are a little below average. Disappearance of about 28.5 million tons of feed grains from farms since January 1 reflects liberal feeding to livestock during the winter. Wheat stocks on farms were about 8 percent below average for April 1, while soybeans were below a year ago but above average.

CONDITION OF PASTURES
ABOVE AVERAGE

As of April 1 pastures throughout the State were in unusually good condition. Reports from dairy-men and farmers as of that date indicated the condition of pastures to be about 88 percent of normal.

This compares to the 10-year average condition of 81 percent for April 1 and 91 percent for the same date a year ago.

Mild winter weather through March has meant almost uninterrupted use of improved and temporary winter pastures. Dry weather in southeastern counties during March reduced the carrying capacity of some pastures. However, much needed rains came to these counties during the last week of the month.

COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES
ACREAGE UNCHANGED

As of April 1, 1950 growers of commercial early Irish Potatoes in North Carolina indicate that plantings this year will be 24,000 acres. This is the same acreage as planted last year, but 29 percent less than the 10-year (1939-48) average of 33,750 acres. The crop is up or coming up in practically all areas. Due to dry soil conditions and cool weather the crop has been at a standstill for the past three weeks. General rains fell over the entire commercial potato areas last week, greatly improving prospects. Due to dry soils, damage to seed cuts has been very light and good stands are practically assured in all areas.

The total 1950 acreage, in the late spring group of states, which includes North Carolina; is estimated at 146,900 acres. This acreage is 6 percent larger than the 138,500 acres harvested in 1949, but 17 percent below the 1939-48 average of 177,010 acres.

The total U. S. acreage of commercial early Irish potatoes is estimated at 270,200 acres-about 2 percent above the 1949 acreage.

GRAIN STOCKS ON FARMS ON APRIL 1

CROP	AVERAGE 1939-48	1949		1950	
		STOCKS	PERCENT a/	STOCKS	PERCENT a/
	000	000		000	
NORTH CAROLINA					
CORN, BU.....	23,947	30,659	46.0	33,044	45.0
WHEAT, BU.....	1,244	725	12.0	694	12.0
OATS, BU.....	1,476	956	12.0	1,887	17.0
BARLEY, BU.....	171	144	18.0	153	17.0
RYE, BU.....	38	19	6.9	12	6.0
SOYBEANS, BU...	878	927	26.0	990	25.0
UNITED STATES					
CORN, BU.....	1,183,682	1,797,522	48.8	1,634,182	48.4
WHEAT, BU.....	216,243	246,024	18.7	199,169	17.4
OATS, BU.....	451,932	578,832	38.8	481,216	36.4
BARLEY, BU.....	76,506	111,408	35.3	70,692	29.7
RYE, BU.....	4,624	5,495	20.8	3,294	17.6
SOYBEANS, BU...	34,952	52,279	23.4	44,014	19.8

a/ Percent of previous year's crop

FARM WAGE RATES DECLINE SLIGHTLY

Farm wage rates in North Carolina both on the per day and the hourly basis were lower on April 1 than on the same date last year.

The rate per day with house furnished laborer was \$3.45 on April 1 as compared with \$3.55 on the same date a year ago. The rate per day without board or room being furnished averaged \$4.10, which is 15 cents below the rate on April 1 last year.

The hourly rate with house furnished decreased from 45 to 41 cents. The rate per hour without board or room decreased from 52 to 49 cents.

Generally the quantity and quality of farm labor has improved in most sections of the State within the past year. The "leveling off" or decrease in some industrial activities has tended to boost the supply of farm labor.

TRUCK CROP ACREAGE UP

LETTUCE: The acreage of lettuce for harvest in North Carolina is estimated at 1,600 acres for 1950. This acreage compares with 1,400 acres harvested last year. Generally, the crop continues in fairly good condition; however, some of the older plants were damaged rather severely by freezes which occurred around the first of March. Conditions of the crop as of April 1, point to an average yield of 110 crates per acre as compared with a yield of 130 crates per acre last year and 10-year average of 95 crates per acre.

CABBAGE: Late spring cabbage acreage for harvest in North Carolina this year is estimated at 2,600 acres. This year's acreage is 24 percent larger than the 2,100 acres harvested last year and 58 percent above the 10-year average of 1,640 acres.

PEACHES
CONDITION APRIL 1

STATE	AVERAGE 1939-48	1947	1948	1949	1950
PERCENT					
N. C.....	80	87	70	43	71
S. C.....	76	85	69	33	64
GA.....	75	78	76	54	57
FLA.....	70	56	71	61	45
ALA.....	72	74	70	53	41
MISS.....	73	72	70	62	53
ARK.....	71	78	68	84	71
LA.....	72	73	69	75	77
OKLA.....	63	44	29	76	73
TEX.....	69	73	36	82	58
10 STATES	74	78	67	55	62

POULTRY PRODUCTION UP 9 PERCENT

During 1949, there were 18,454,000 chickens, excluding commercial broilers, produced on North Carolina farms. Production during the year was 9 percent greater than the 16,893,000 produced in 1948 and was the highest since 1946.

Compared with the previous year, the number of chickens sold and the number consumed in farm households also increased. Sales of chickens from North Carolina farms in 1949 totaled 8,657,000, 14 percent more than the 7,562,000 sold in 1948. The number of chickens consumed in the farm household increased 6 percent from the previous year to 9,557,000.

Inventories of chickens on farms January 1, 1950 totaled 11,037,000, an increase of 240,000 over inventories a year earlier.

Cash receipts from chicken sales totaled \$9,690,000 last year, a decline of \$60,000 from 1948 receipts, and gross income, which includes the value of chickens consumed in the farm household, dropped \$861,000 from the previous year to \$18,300,000.

This decrease was entirely due to the 12 percent decline in price Tar Heel farmers received per pound for their chickens. The 1949 average of 27.3 cents per pound was the lowest

average price received since 1944.

Commercial broiler production during 1949 reached a record high of 21,943,000 birds, weighing 61,440,000 pounds. This was a 20 percent increase over the number of broilers produced in 1948.

Despite the increase over the previous year in numbers produced in the State, price reduction caused gross income from broilers to fall 10 percent in 1949 to \$16,527,000.

The average price per pound producers received for broilers in 1949 was 26.9 cents, 22 percent below the 34.7 cents received during the previous year.

Hens on North Carolina farm laid more than a billion eggs in 1949, 9 percent above the 923 million produced during the previous year. The increase over 1948 was due to a higher rate of lay plus an increase in the number of layers on farms.

The rate of egg production of 137 per layer on hand during the year was an increase of almost 4 percent over the 1948 rate of lay.

Of the 1,009 million eggs produced in 1949, 681 million were sold, 320 million were consumed in farm households, and 8 million were used for farm hatching. For eggs sold, farmers received an average of 48.6 cents per dozen in 1949 and 50.3 cents in 1948.

SEASONAL FACTORS BOOST EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in North Carolina during the month of March was up sharply from the previous month. This boost in production was due almost entirely to the normal cycle of increased rate of lay occurring during early spring months.

An average of 7.8 million layers were on farms in the State during March, about 266 thousand below the February average but 79 thousand greater than for March a year ago.

The average rate of lay per bird during March was 15.56 eggs compared with 11.03 for the previous month and 16.31 for March, 1949.

March weather conditions were for the most part favorable to egg production. Except for a short cold snap around March 1-2, moderate temperatures prevailed throughout the month.

RYE PROSPECTS FAVORABLE

April 1 prospects for rye production in North Carolina appeared very favorable. Condition of the crop as of April 1 is estimated at 89 percent of normal, 2 points below the 1949 condition but 4 points above the 1939-48 average.

Due to the unusual mild weather during planting season, Tar Heel farmers were able to get most of their planting accomplished rather early.

The rye crop suffered no apparent damage from the freezing weather that occurred around March 1.

WHEAT PRODUCTION PROSPECTS UNCHANGED

The April 1 forecast of wheat production is placed at 6,525,000 bushels, which is the same as the December estimate. If the current estimate of production is realized the 1950 crop will be 12.8 percent above the 1949 crop, but 9.6 percent below the 10-year average production of 6,809,000 bushels.

Generally, the state's wheat crop is in good condition. Some fields seeded to Hardired and Red-heart varieties were damaged by freezing weather on March 1.

The extent of the freeze damage varied considerably between areas and within the same area. Any effect of the freeze damage on yield should be reflected in the May 1 estimate. Atlas, a new variety, received very little damage from the March 1 freeze.

The total U. S. wheat crop is estimated at 763,590,000 bushels. A crop of this size compares with 901,668,000 bushels produced in 1949 and the 10-year average production of 758,821,000 bushels.

NORTH CAROLINA FARM PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, CASH RECEIPTS AND GROSS INCOME FROM CHICKENS

ITEMS	UNIT	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945
RAISED 1/.....	THOUSAND HEAD	20,406	18,894	20,100	21,383	24,299
LOST 2/.....	THOUSAND HEAD	1,952	2,001	2,180	2,248	2,352
PRODUCED 3/.....	THOUSAND HEAD	18,454	16,893	17,920	19,135	21,947
CHANGE IN INVENTORY 4/.....	THOUSAND HEAD	+ 240	+ 315	- 1,579	- 1,112	- 611
CONSUMED IN FARM HOUSEHOLD.....	THOUSAND HEAD	9,557	9,016	9,491	9,785	10,088
SOLD.....	THOUSAND HEAD	8,657	7,562	10,008	10,462	12,470
PRODUCED.....	THOUSAND POUNDS	68,016	63,737	67,777	71,604	84,284
CONSUMED IN FARM HOUSEHOLD.....	THOUSAND POUNDS	31,538	30,654	33,218	33,269	33,290
SOLD.....	THOUSAND POUNDS	35,494	31,760	41,033	42,894	53,621
PRICE PER POUND.....	CENTS	27.3	30.7	28.5	28.8	28.8
CASH RECEIPTS.....	THOUSAND DOLS.	9,690	9,750	11,694	12,353	15,443
VALUE OF CHICKENS CONSUMED.....	THOUSAND DOLS.	8,610	9,411	9,467	9,581	9,588
GROSS INCOME.....	THOUSAND DOLS.	18,300	19,161	21,161	21,934	25,031

1/ Does not include young chickens lost or commercial broilers.

2/ Loss during the year of chickens on hand January 1.

3/ Chickens sold plus consumed in household of farm producers, and the plus or minus change in inventory.

4/ Change in inventory numbers during the year.

NORTH CAROLINA FARM PRODUCTION, SALES AND CASH RECEIPTS FROM EGGS, 1945-49

YEAR	EGGS PRODUCED	EGGS SOLD	PRICE PER DOZ.	CASH RECEIPTS
	MILLION		CENTS	THOUSAND DOLLARS
1949	1,009	681	48.6	27,580
1948	923	601	50.3	25,192
1947	981	648	48.0	25,920
1946	980	628	41.6	21,771
1945	1,031	691	40.4	23,264

NORTH CAROLINA COMMERCIAL BROILER PRODUCTION AND GROSS INCOME, 1945-49

YEAR	PRODUCED		PRICE PER POUND	GROSS INCOME 1/
	NUMBER	POUNDS		
	THOUSANDS		CENTS	THOUSAND DOLLARS
1949	21,943	61,440	26.9	16,527
1948	18,286	53,029	34.7	18,401
1947	16,182	45,310	32.9	14,907
1946	14,711	42,662	32.3	13,780
1945	17,940	52,026	29.7	15,452

1/ Includes consumption in households of producers which is less than 1 percent of total production.

Steel, automobile and other production was up again in March.

FARM REPORT

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APRIL 14, 1950

FARM REPORT

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COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER LOWER

Commercial slaughter of livestock in North Carolina during February was lower than January for all types of meat animals except calves.

Compared with February 1949, however, slaughter of calves and sheep declined, hog slaughter increased slightly and cattle slaughter showed no change.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, FEBRUARY, 1949 AND 1950

SPECIES	NORTH CAROLINA				UNITED STATES			
	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT		NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT	
	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950
	THOUS. HEAD	THOUS. HEAD	THOUS. LBS.	THOUS. LBS.	THOUS. HEAD	THOUS. HEAD	THOUS. LBS.	THOUS. LBS.
CATTLE....	5.5	5.5	4,334	4,353	1,374.0	1,291.8	1,308,825	1,246,134
CALVES....	7.5	4.6	1,213	706	811.0	780.2	148,709	144,469
HOGS.....	29.0	31.0	6,242	7,230	5,120.6	5,207.6	1,243,691	1,219,108
SHEEP & LAMBS....	.1	-	10	-	1,136.5	937.0	110,317	96,153

* Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter.

GENERAL SITUATION (Continued)

Limited planting of corn has been done in some southeastern counties but general planting will not start until after April 10. Current moisture supplies are ample for germination and initial growth.

Tobacco plants are in fair to good condition generally. However, there is a rather wide variation in condition and supply prospects. The plant outlook in the Border Belt (Type 13) counties is good. Plant beds in the Eastern Belt (Type 12) are not too good. Dry weather, cold weather, blue mold and insects have been effective in curtailing plant supplies to some extent. A lot of plants in this area will be later than usual. Reports indicate that plant beds in the Old Belt are in better condition than in the Eastern Belt.

Peach prospects were favorable as of April 1, especially in the commercial areas. The blooming period has been extended over an unusually long period.

Apples have not been damaged and prospects as of this date are considered favorable.

MARCH WEATHER SUMMARY

The weather in North Carolina during March, 1950, was typical of a spring month. Cold Canadian air masses were able to invade the State frequently bringing unseasonably cold weather on several different days. Freezing temperatures were reported on about 15 days in western sections and on from 2 to 8 days in the Piedmont and parts of the Coastal Plains.

On the other hand, unusually warm temperatures were also present on several different days. The 27th was particularly warm with readings in the 80's common outside of mountain areas. The winds were often blustery,

which helped produce rapid and pronounced day to day temperature changes. Average temperatures for the month ranged from about normal near the coast to as much as 4 degrees below normal in parts of the Piedmont and mountains.

Showers were frequent occurring with regularity on at least one day in every week. Total rainfall amounts were generous and near long-time averages everywhere, except in much of the Coastal Plain and the northeastern portion of the Piedmont. There rainfall amounts were from one to two inches below long-time averages.

NORTH CAROLINA - INCHES OF RAINFALL DURING MARCH, 1950

